

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application.

In the aforementioned Office Action, the Examiner objects to several informalities on claims 9, 13 and 15.

Applicants appreciate the keen observation by the Examiner. By this amendment, the identified informalities have corrected. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the same Office Action, claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chen et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0105929) in view of *Neufeld* (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,703) in further view of *Stewart et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,169,731) in further view of *Mahany* (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,555). Claims 2-7 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 9-15 are allowed.

By this amendment, to expedite prosecution and without acceding to the Examiner's positions, claims 1 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-7 have been rewritten in independent form with each claim includes all the limitations of it base claim and any intervening claims.

In light of the above amendment and remarks, the remaining claims in the application, i.e., claims 2-7 and 9-15 are submitted to be distinguishably patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

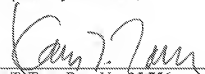
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In the event of any fees that may be due or any overpayments that may be associated with this response, please charge or deposit the amount to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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